Kennedy Deaths & Castro: Doubt Cast on That Report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Columnist Jack Anderson, reacting to a report in the Las Vegas Sun of a Senate Intelligence Committee document saying that Fidel Castro ordered the assassination of President Kennedy, says he has a copy of a similar memo that is incorrect.

Anderson said that his memo, which he described as a Secret Service message relaying information from the late Chief Justice Earl Warren to then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, was based only on speculation.

He said Warren had got the information from an Anderson source during a meeting arranged by the late Drew Pearson in 1967. The memo sent to Hoover inaccurately related what Warren had been told, according to Anderson.

Whether the report cited by the Las Vegas Sun and the memo described by Anderson are the same could not be immediately established.

The paper said yesterday in a copyrighted story by publisher Hank Greenspun that Castro instigated the assassination of President Kennedy and "very probably" that of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in retaliation for five assassination attempts against Castro.

The Sun said information for its story came from a confidential source and was documented by a secret report in the hands of the Senate committee.

Anderson, who refused both access to his copy of the memo and permission to quote from it, said it was written by James J. Rowley, former head of the Secret Service, relaying information about the CIA and Castro from Warren to Hoover for investigation.

The columnist gave this account in an interview with the Associated Press:

A source with direct knowledge of CIA plans to kill Castro told Anderson about the plots in 1967, three years after the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Anderson told Pearson, his late associate, who arranged

Continued on Page 60

NY POST March 2, 76

Castro and the Kennedys

Continued from Page 5

a meeting between the source and Warren. The source told Warren that the CIA had tried to kill Castro and that Castro knew it. The source also speculated that Castro might have ordered Kennedy's death in retaliation.

Warren gave the information to Rowley, who relayed it to Hoover in the memo. But Rowley incorrectly wrote as fact the source's speculation that Castro had ordered Kennedy's death.

Rowley, who retired in 1973, confirmed in an interview last night that he had passed the information from the meeting on to the FBI in a memo to Hoover.

Well-informed sources reported that the Senate Intelligence Committee had obtained a copy of the memo.

Rowley was unable to confirm specifics of the memo, saying, "I can't recall the exact words of the text."

Asked about Anderson's comments that he mistakenly confused speculation with fact over Castro's possible role in the Kennedy assassination, Rowley replied:

"We tried to do it [the memo] as it was presented to us by Warren."